

Message Text

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56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /088 W

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R 201721Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 575

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1716

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, EX

SUBJECT: EC SCENARIO FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0140

1. THE EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE MATTERS HAS CONFIRMED TO US THE TIMETABLE SET FORTH IN REFTEL (AMBASSADOR WAGNER'S VISIT TO CAIRO IN EARLY MARCH AND GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING DURING SECOND HALF OF MAY). HE OBSERVED THAT THE "DENATIONALIZED" SINGLE-DELEGATION APPROACH HAD NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED AS YET BY THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL BUT THAT MOHAMMED RIAD, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, HAD ASSURED EC REPRESENTATIVES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECEMBER THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT APPROVAL

WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, THE COMMISSION MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE LEVEL OF AMBASSADORS. THE NINE WILL BE REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADORS-AT-LARGE DESIGNATED BY THEIR FOREIGN OFFICES; ON THE ARAB SIDE, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MANY ARAB AMBASSADORS TO THE EC WILL PARTICIPATE.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS, OUR SOURCE HOPES THAT THEY CAN BE DEALT WITH AS IN PAST MEETINGS OF THE JOINT EXPERTS, I.E. THROUGH BRIEF STATEMENTS BY EACH SIDE AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING. THE EC'S STATEMENT, A DRAFT OF WHICH IS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE EC-9 POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG FEBRUARY 23-24, IS EXPECTED TO CONSIST OF A REITERATION OF THE NINE'S MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 1973 AND OF THE NINE'S JOINT STATEMENT ON THE ZIONISM-RACISM RESOLUTION AT THE UNGA LAST FALL.

3. OUR SOURCE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING WILL APPROVE FOR IMPLEMENTATION PERHAPS 10-12 CONCRETE PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN HITHERTO DISCUSSED IN THE SEVEN JOINT WORKING GROUPS. HE NOTED THAT THE EC EXPERTS ARE NOW CULLING THE LIST FOR SOLID PROPOSALS BUT ARE ENCOUNTERING SOME DIFFICULTY IN FINDING GOOD PROJECTS THAT WON'T COST MONEY. IN ADDITION TO AN AGREEMENT ON PROJECTS, OUR SOURCE HOPES THAT THE GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING WILL GIVE IMPETUS TO FURTHER WORK IN THE SEVEN SPECIALIZED GROUPS WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED AT THE MEETING.

4. OUR SOURCE NOTED THAT FROM TIME TO TIME VARIOUS ARAB OFFICIALS ARE REPORTED TO ADVOCATE A MEETING OF THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. HE IS INCLINED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE STATEMENTS, LOOKING AT THEM AS PERHAPS A REFLECTION OF INTRA-ARAB MANEUVERING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. IN ANY EVENT, HE FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE THAT THE EC MEMBER STATES WOULD EVER AGREE TO SUCH A MEETING, OBSERVING WITH A SMILE THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE SOME IMAGINATION TO PRESERVE THE DENATIONALIZED FORMULA IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROOMFUL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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